

**Hopkinton Budget Committee
Town Hall
November 4, 2009**

Present: Patrice Gerseny – Chair; Marion Paxton; Cameron Ford; David Lancaster; Karen Irwin; Danny Coen; Tom O'Donnell – Hopkinton Village Precinct Bob Carpenter; Contoocook Village Precinct; Scott Flood – Selectmen - Sub; Liz Durant – School Board – Sub.

Absent: George Langwasser – Selectmen; David Luneau – School Board

The meeting started at 6:31 pm.

Warrant Article – Special Meeting – Dec 5th

Chair Gerseny began the meeting with a discussion of the legal issues of required meetings. Town counsel of record Russell Hilliard advised that the Board of Selectmen is required to hold a Bond Hearing. The Dept. of Revenue Administration [DRA] said the Budget Committee does not need to hold a meeting. The Local Government Center [LGC] advised that Budget Committee can hold an advisory meeting.

Scott Flood then advised the Budget Committee should/can hold an appropriations meeting according to RSA 32:5.

Discussing the Special Meeting date of December 5 as published by the Selectmen, the members determined there is no way a Public Hearing could be held and still have the meeting on the 5th.

Scott Flood – 5 Rivers raised \$417,500. 5 Rivers did not contribute any cash outlay.

Karen Irwin questioned getting a grant as a municipality. The Federal Government only allowed 5 Rivers.

Danny Coen stated that as of today there had been about \$30,000 raised in private donations. These donations are being held by 5 Rivers and will be returned if this does not go through.

Chair Gerseny asked who authorized the Conservation Commission to contribute \$50,000. Dijit Taylor responded by saying the members needed to ask the Conservation Commission.

Chair Gerseny reviewed the estimate expense of \$903,000.

Expense

Purchase price if conservation easement	\$835,000
Appraisal	10,000
Legal Counsel	3,000
Other project costs	<u>55,000</u>
Total Expense Estimate	\$903,000

Income

USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program [5 Rivers]	\$417,500
Hopkinton Conservation Commission	50,000
Private Donations	TBD
Proposed from Open Space Bond [amt depends on donations]	<u>435,500</u>
Total Anticipated Income	\$903,000

The purchase and sales agreement states the town and 5 Rivers are joint owners.
The Town will have an Executory Interest.

When asked about the town budget for next year, Scott Flood stated the budget will go up. It is currently around +7%, including \$53,000 to be set aside for the bond payment for the Bohanan Farm.

Marion Paxton presented the members with a copy of Debt Service #4711, submitted by Bob Blanchette as part of the budget to the selectmen. The amount of bond payments covering land acquisitions for 2010 is \$111,213 for 4 parcels. The bonds are scheduled to be paid off: 2 in 2020 and 1 each in 2025 and 2026.

Cameron Ford expressed concern with the entire process – an unclear purchase and sales agreement; meeting schedules; different legal opinions and an unclear amount to be allocated by the town.

Danny Coen questioned whether this is a need or a want.

Liz Durant commented that each has philosophical beliefs and it's the committees' job to look at the numbers. She believes there is currently not enough information.

Chair Gerseny reminded the members that it is the committees' job to get information to the residents and they don't have to recommend.

Items/Documents the committee needs –

Cameron Ford – would like to have the budget for 2010 with these additional costs included.

Karen Irwin – would like a breakdown of 'Other Project Costs'.

Bob Carpenter – a list of ALL up front costs

Chair Gerseny – Scott to get a listing of all donations from 5 Rivers

Karen Irwin – when is the Conservation Commission holding their Public Hearing and their vote?

Karen Irwin – a copy of the letter of commitment from USDA Farm & Ranchland

- a copy of the Grant award
- a list of ongoing costs and who pays for them
- who holds the liability insurance
- any other operating costs

Cameron Ford made a motion to allow the Budget Committee to hold a Public Hearing pursuant to RSA 32:5, the date to be determined based on the Selectmen's date for their Special meeting. David Lancaster seconded. A vote was taken.

Yes – 9 Chair Gerseny, Danny Coen, Marion Paxton, Cameron Ford, David Lancaster, Karen Irwin, Scott Flood, Tom O'Donnell, Bob Carpenter

No – 0

Abstain – 1 Liz Durant

Motion passed authorizing the Budget Committee to hold a meeting according to RSA 32:5.

Liz Durant left at 8:00 pm.

Public Comment

Janet Kryzaniak – Would like future agenda and handouts.

Chair Gerseny advised usually there are extra handouts, but also public can download the information.

Scott Flood made a motion asking the Budget Committee to recommend this matter be put on the March annual meeting rather than a Special Meeting. Marion Paxton seconded.

Discussion – the committee does not have enough information at this point. The members are uncomfortable with this motion. A vote was taken.

Yes – 2

Scott Flood, Tom O'Donnell

No – 6

Danny Coen, Marion Paxton, Cameron Ford, David Lancaster, Karen Irwin, Bob Carpenter

Chair Gerseny did not have to vote.

Motion Failed

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Clark
Secretary